

# House Concurrent Resolution No. 10

## 91<sup>ST</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1524L.011

1                   **Whereas**, the original passage of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act  
2 (IDEA) in 1975 established a program of free appropriate public education to better enable students with  
3 disabilities to achieve their greatest potential; and  
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5                   **Whereas**, IDEA also represented an advance in civil rights for disabled children through  
6 equal protection; and  
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8                   **Whereas**, Missouri has demonstrated a strong commitment to serving our children with  
9 disabilities through provision of special education and related services to over 127,000 students (14.18  
10 percent of public school enrollment); and  
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12                   **Whereas**, the original intent of the 94th Congress was to fund IDEA at 40% of its cost,  
13 but funding has never exceeded 13%; and  
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15                   **Whereas**, federal law requires school districts to meet federal standards, but Congress has  
16 not provided the promised funding necessary to achieve those standards; and  
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18                   **Whereas**, Missouri and several other states have legal prohibitions on passing unfunded  
19 mandates to the local level and therefore must either make up the shortfall or ask local districts to do so  
20 and thereby risk litigation; and  
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22                   **Whereas**, local districts must then cover the mandated expenses of special education and  
23 reduce funding for teachers, textbooks and supplies, building maintenance and repair, as well as meet  
24 the counterproductive reporting burden which severely reduces teacher availability:  
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26       **Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the members of the House of  
27 Representatives of the Ninety-first General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate concurring  
28 therein, hereby urge that before the 107th Congress considers any other education initiatives, that IDEA  
29 receive prompt and full funding, and the reporting requirements of IDEA be significantly reduced; and  
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31       **Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of  
32 Representatives be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the President of  
33 the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and every member  
34 of the Missouri Congressional delegation.